1	STATE OF OKLAHOMA
2	2nd Session of the 56th Legislature (2018)
3	SENATE BILL 1107 By: Simpson
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6	AS INTRODUCED
7	An Act relating to cities and towns; amending 11 O.S.
8	2011, Sections 22-111, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 136, O.S.L. 2012, 22-112.1 and Section 3,
9	Chapter 326, O.S.L. 2014 (11 O.S. Supp. 2017, Sections 22-111 and 22-112.4), which relate to
10	abatement proceedings; modifying procedure for municipality to recover certain costs, to declare a
11	nuisance and priority for property lien; updating language; deleting certain reference; and providing
12	an effective date.
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14	BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:
15	SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 11 O.S. 2011, Section 22-111, as
16	amended by Section 1, Chapter 136, O.S.L. 2012 (11 O.S. Supp. 2017,
17	Section 22-111), is amended to read as follows:
18	Section 22-111. A. A municipal governing body may cause
19	property within the municipal limits to be cleaned of trash and
20	weeds or grass to be cut or mowed in accordance with the following
21	procedure:
22	1. At least ten (10) days' notice shall be given to the owner
23	of the property by mail at the address shown by the current year's
24	tax rolls in the county treasurer's office before the governing body

holds a hearing or takes action. The notice shall order the property owner to clean the property of trash, or to cut or mow the weeds or grass on the property, as appropriate, and the notice shall further state that unless such work is performed within ten (10) days of the date of the notice the work shall be done by the municipality and a notice of lien shall be filed with the county clerk against the property for the costs due and owing the municipality. At the time of mailing of notice to the property owner, the municipality shall obtain a receipt of mailing from the postal service, which receipt shall indicate the date of mailing and the name and address of the mailee. However, if the property owner cannot be located within ten (10) days from the date of mailing by the municipal governing body, notice may be given by posting a copy of the notice on the property or by publication, as defined in Section 1-102 of this title, one time not less than ten (10) days prior to any hearing or action by the municipality. If a municipal governing body anticipates summary abatement of a nuisance in accordance with the provisions of subsection B of this section, the notice, whether by mail, posting or publication, shall state: that any accumulations of trash or excessive weed or grass growth on the owner's property occurring within six (6) months from and after the date of this notice may be summarily abated by the municipal governing body; that the costs of such abatement shall be assessed against the owner; and that a lien may be imposed on the property to

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secure such payment, all without further prior notice to the property owner;

- 2. The owner of the property may give written consent to the municipality authorizing the removal of the trash or the mowing of the weeds or grass. By giving written consent, the owner waives the owner's right to a hearing by the municipality;
- 3. A hearing may be held by the municipal governing body to determine whether the accumulation of trash or the growth of weeds or grass has caused the property to become detrimental to the health, benefit, and welfare of the public and the community or a hazard to traffic, or creates a fire hazard to the danger of property;
- 4. Upon a finding that the condition of the property constitutes a detriment or hazard, and that the property would be benefited by the removal of such conditions, the agents of the municipality are granted the right of entry on the property for the removal of trash, mowing of weeds or grass, and performance of the necessary duties as a governmental function of the municipality. Immediately following the cleaning or mowing of the property, the municipal clerk shall file a notice of lien with the county clerk describing the property and the work performed by the municipality, and stating that the municipality claims a lien on the property for the cleaning or mowing costs;

5. The governing body shall determine the actual cost of such cleaning and mowing and any other expenses as may be necessary in connection therewith, including the cost of notice and mailing. The municipal clerk shall forward by mail to the property owner specified in paragraph 1 of this subsection a statement of such actual cost and demanding payment. If the cleaning and mowing are done by the municipality, the cost to the property owner for the cleaning and mowing shall not exceed the actual cost of the labor, maintenance, and equipment required. If the cleaning and mowing are done on a private contract basis, the contract shall be awarded to the lowest and best bidder;

6. If payment is not made within thirty (30) days from the date of the mailing of the statement, then within the next thirty (30) days, the municipal clerk shall forward a certified statement of the amount of the cost to the county treasurer of the county in which the property is located and the same shall be levied on the property and collected by the county treasurer as other taxes authorized by law. Once certified by the county treasurer, payment may only be made to the county treasurer except as otherwise provided for in this section municipality may file a lien on the property with the county clerk in the manner for other liens on real property. In addition the The cost and the interest thereon shall be a lien against the property from the date the cost is certified to the county treasurer lien is filed, coequal with the lien of ad valorem

taxes and all other taxes and special assessments and prior and superior to all other titles and liens against the property, and the lien shall continue until the cost shall be fully paid or until the municipality or its assignee agrees to release the lien. At the time of collection the county treasurer shall collect a fee of Five Dollars (\$5.00) for each parcel of property. The fee shall be deposited to the credit of the general fund of the county. If the county treasurer and the municipality agree that the county treasurer is unable to collect the assessment, the The municipality may pursue a civil remedy for collection of the amount owing and interest thereon by an action in person against the property owner and an action in rem to foreclose its lien against the property. A mineral interest, if severed from the surface interest and not owned by the surface owner, shall not be subject to any tax or judgment lien created pursuant to this section. Upon receiving payment, if any, the municipal clerk shall forward to the county treasurer a notice of such payment and directing discharge of the lien; and

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7. The municipality may designate by ordinance an administrative officer or administrative body to carry out the duties of the governing body in subsection A of this section. The property owner shall have a right of appeal to the municipal governing body from any order of the administrative officer or administrative body. Such appeal shall be taken by filing written

notice of appeal with the municipal clerk within ten (10) days after the administrative order is rendered.

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- If a notice is given by a municipal governing body to a property owner ordering the property within the municipal limits to be cleaned of trash and weeds or grass to be cut or mowed and the municipality abates the nuisance according to law, in accordance with the procedures provided for in subsection A of this section, any subsequent accumulations of trash or excessive weed or grass growth on the property occurring within a six-month period may be declared to be a nuisance and may be summarily abated without further prior notice to the property owner. At the time of each such summary abatement the municipality shall notify the property owner of the abatement and the costs thereof. The notice shall state that the property owner may request a hearing within ten (10) days after the date of mailing the notice. The notice and hearing shall be as provided for in subsection A of this section. Unless otherwise determined at the hearing the cost of such abatement shall be determined and collected as provided for in paragraphs 5 and 6 of subsection A of this section. This subsection shall not apply if the records of the county clerk show that the property was transferred after notice was given pursuant to subsection A of this section.
  - C. The municipal governing body may enact ordinances to prohibit owners of property or persons otherwise in possession or

control located within the municipal limits from allowing trash to accumulate, or weeds to grow or stand upon the premises and may impose penalties for violation of said the ordinances.

D. As used in this section:

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- 1. "Weed" includes but is not limited to poison ivy, poison oak, or poison sumac and all vegetation at any state of maturity which:
  - a. exceeds twelve (12) inches in height, except healthy trees, shrubs, or produce for human consumption grown in a tended and cultivated garden unless such trees and shrubbery by their density or location constitute a detriment to the health, benefit and welfare of the public and community or a hazard to traffic or create a fire hazard to the property or otherwise interfere with the mowing of said the weeds,
  - b. regardless of height, harbors, conceals, or invites deposits or accumulation of refuse or trash,
  - c. harbors rodents or vermin,
  - d. gives off unpleasant or noxious odors,
  - e. constitutes a fire or traffic hazard, or
  - f. is dead or diseased.

The term "weed" shall not include tended crops on land zoned for agricultural use which are planted more than one hundred fifty (150) feet from a parcel zoned for other than agricultural use;

- 2. "Trash" means any refuse, litter, ashes, leaves, debris, paper, combustible materials, rubbish, offal, or waste, or matter of any kind or form which is uncared for, discarded, or abandoned;
- 3. "Owner" means the owner of record as shown by the most current tax rolls of the county treasurer; and

- 4. "Cleaning" means the removal of trash from property.
- E. The provisions of this section shall not apply to any property zoned and used for agricultural purposes or to railroad property under the jurisdiction of the Oklahoma Corporation Commission. However, a municipal governing body may cause the removal of weeds or trash from property zoned and used for agricultural purposes pursuant to the provisions of this section but only if such weeds or trash pose a hazard to traffic and are located in, or within ten (10) yards of, the public right-of-way at intersections.
- SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 11 O.S. 2011, Section 22-112.1, is amended to read as follows:

Section 22-112.1. A. After a building has been declared dilapidated, as provided in Section 22-112 of this title, and before the commencement of the tearing and removal of a dilapidated building, the governing body of any municipality may authorize that such a building be boarded and secured. However, if the dilapidated building is vacant and unfit for human occupancy, the governing body

of any municipality may authorize the structure to be demolished pursuant to Section 22-112 of this title.

- B. A governing body of any municipality may cause the premises on which an unsecured building is located to be cleaned of trash and weeds in accordance with the provisions of Section 22-111 of this title.
- C. A governing body of any municipality may cause an unsecured building to be boarded and secured in accordance with the following procedures:
- 1. Before the governing body orders such action, at least ten (10) days' notice that such unsecured building is to be boarded and secured shall be given by mail to any property owners and mortgage holders as provided in Section 22-112 of this title. At the time of mailing of notice to any property owner or mortgage holder, the municipality shall obtain a receipt of mailing from the postal service, which receipt shall indicate the date of mailing and the name and address of the mailee. A copy of the notice shall also be posted on the property to be affected. However, if neither the property owner nor mortgage holder can be located, notice may be given by posting a copy of the notice on the property or by publication as defined in Section 1-102 of this title. Such notice shall be published one time, not less than ten (10) days prior to any hearing or action by the municipality pursuant to the provisions of this section. If a municipal governing body anticipates summary

abatement of a nuisance in accordance with the provisions of paragraph  $\frac{9}{10}$  of this subsection, the notice shall state: that any subsequent need for boarding and securing the building within a sixmonth period after the initial boarding and securing of the building pursuant to such notice may be summarily boarded and secured by the municipal governing body; that the costs of such boarding and securing shall be assessed against the owner; and that a lien may be imposed on the property to secure such payment, all without further prior notice to the property owner or mortgage holder;

- 2. The owner of the property may give written consent to the municipality authorizing the boarding and securing of such unsecured building and to the payment of any costs incurred thereby. By giving written consent, the owner waives any right the owner has to a hearing by the municipal governing body;
- 3. If the property owner does not give written consent to such actions, a hearing may be held by the municipal governing body to determine whether the boarding and securing of such unsecured building would promote and benefit the public health, safety or welfare. Such hearing may be held in conjunction with a hearing on the accumulation of trash or the growth of weeds or grass on the premises of such unsecured building held pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 3 of subsection A of Section 22-111 of this title. In making such determination, the governing body shall apply the following standard: the governing body may order the boarding and

securing of the unsecured building when the boarding and securing thereof would make such building less available for transient occupation, decrease a fire hazard created by such building, or decrease the hazard that such building would constitute an attractive nuisance to children.

Upon making the required determination, the municipal governing body may order the boarding and securing of the unsecured building;

- 4. After the governing body orders the boarding and securing of such unsecured building, the municipal clerk shall immediately file a notice of unsecured building and lien with the county clerk describing the property, stating the findings of the municipality at the hearing at which such building was determined to be unsecured, and stating that the municipality claims a lien on the property for the costs of boarding and securing such building and that such costs are the personal obligation of the property owner from and after the date of filing the notice;
- 5. Pursuant to the order of the governing body, the agents of the municipality are granted the right of entry on the property for the performance of the boarding and securing of such building and for the performance of all necessary duties as a governmental function of the municipality;
- 6. After an unsecured building has been boarded and secured, the governing body shall determine the actual costs of such actions and any other expenses that may be necessary in conjunction

therewith including the cost of the notice and mailing. The municipal clerk shall forward a statement of the actual costs attributable to the boarding and securing of the unsecured building and a demand for payment of such costs, by mail to any property owners and mortgage holders as provided in Section 22-112 of this title. At the time of mailing of the statement of costs to any property owner or mortgage holder, the municipality shall obtain a receipt of mailing from the postal service, which receipt shall indicate the date of mailing and the name and address of the mailee.

If a municipality boards and secures any unsecured building, the cost to the property owner shall not exceed the actual cost of the labor, materials and equipment required for the performance of such actions. If such actions are done on a private contract basis, the contract shall be awarded to the lowest and best bidder;

7. When payment is made to the municipality for costs incurred, the municipal clerk shall file a release of lien, but if payment attributable to the actual costs of the boarding and securing of the unsecured building is not made within thirty (30) days from the date of the mailing of the statement to the owner of such property, the municipal clerk shall forward a certified statement of the amount of the costs to the county treasurer of the county in which the property is located. Once certified to the county treasurer, payment may only be made to the county treasurer except as otherwise provided for in this section. At the time of collection the county

treasurer shall collect a fee of Five Dollars (\$5.00) for each parcel of property and such fee shall be deposited to the general fund of the county. The costs shall be levied on the property and collected by the county treasurer as are other taxes authorized by law municipality may file a lien on the property with the county clerk in the manner for other liens on real property. Until fully paid, the costs and the interest thereon shall be the personal obligation of the property owner from and after the date the notice of unsecured building and lien is filed with the county clerk. In addition the costs and the interest thereon shall be a lien against the property from the date the notice of the lien is filed with the county clerk. The lien shall be coequal with the lien of ad valorem taxes and all other taxes and special assessments and shall be prior and superior to all other titles and liens against the property. The lien shall continue until the costs and interest are fully paid. If the county treasurer and the municipality agree that the county treasurer is unable to collect the assessment, the or until the municipality or its assignee agrees to release the lien. The municipality may pursue a civil remedy for collection of the amount owing and interest thereon by an action in personam against the property owner and an action in rem to foreclose its lien against the property. A mineral interest if severed from the surface owner, shall not be subject to any tax or judgment lien created pursuant to this section. Upon receiving payment, the municipal clerk shall

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forward to the county treasurer a notice of such payment and shall direct discharge of the lien;

- 8. The municipality may designate by ordinance an administrative officer or administrative body to carry out the duties of the governing body specified in subsection C of this section. The property owner or mortgage holder shall have a right of appeal to the municipal governing body from any order of the administrative officer or administrative body. Such appeal shall be taken by filing written notice of appeal with the municipal clerk within ten (10) days after the administrative order is rendered;
- 9. If a municipal governing body causes a structure within the municipal limits to be boarded and secured, any subsequent need for boarding and securing within a six-month period constitutes a public nuisance and may be summarily boarded and secured without further prior notice to the property owner or mortgage holder. At the time of each such summary boarding and securing, the municipality shall notify the property owner and mortgage holder of the boarding and securing and the costs thereof. The notice shall state that the property owner may request an appeal with the municipal clerk within ten (10) days after the mailing of the notice. The notice and hearing shall be as provided for in paragraph 1 of this subsection. Unless otherwise determined at the hearing the cost of such boarding and securing shall be determined and collected as provided for in paragraphs 6 7 and 7 8 of this subsection;

10. A governing body of any municipality may determine that a building is unsecured and order that such building be boarded and secured in the manner provided for in this subsection even though such building has not been declared, by the governing body, to be dilapidated; and

11. For the purposes of this subsection:

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- a. "boarding and securing" or "boarded and secured" means the closing, boarding or locking of any or all exterior openings so as to prevent entry into the structure,
- b. "unsecured building" shall mean any structure which is not occupied by a legal or equitable owner thereof, or by a lessee of a legal or equitable owner, and into which there are one or more unsecured openings such as broken windows, unlocked windows, broken doors, unlocked doors, holes in exterior walls, holes in the roof, broken basement or cellar hatchways, unlocked basement or cellar hatchways or other similar unsecured openings which would facilitate an unauthorized entry into the structure, and
- c. "unfit for human occupancy" means a structure that due to lack of necessary repairs is considered uninhabitable and is a hazard to the health, safety, and welfare of the general public.

- D. The provisions of this section shall not apply to any property zoned and used for agricultural purposes.
- 3 | SECTION 3. AMENDATORY Section 3, Chapter 326, O.S.L.
- 4 | 2014 (11 O.S. Supp. 2017, Section 22-112.4), is amended to read as
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- Section 22-112.4. A. An abandoned building shall constitute a public nuisance because it:
  - 1. Is detrimental to the public health, safety or welfare of the inhabitants of and visitors to the municipality;
- 2. Causes increased municipal regulatory costs and increased municipal police and fire protection costs; and
  - 3. Devalues abutting and nearby real properties.
  - B. A municipal governing body may abate the public nuisance caused by an abandoned building within the municipal limits in accordance with the following procedures:
  - 1. At least ten (10) days' notice that an abandoned building is to be abated pursuant to the procedures for abatement set forth in this section shall be given to the owner of the property before the governing body holds a hearing. A copy of the notice shall be sent by mail to the property owner at the address shown by the current year's tax rolls in the office of the county treasurer. Written notice shall also be sent by mail to any mortgage holder as shown by the records in the office of the county clerk to the last-known address of the mortgage holder. At the time of mailing of notice to

any property owner or mortgage holder, the municipality shall obtain a receipt of mailing from the postal service, the receipt of which shall indicate the date of mailing and the name and address of the mailee. The notice shall include a physical address and an email address at which the municipal governing body may be contacted. However, if neither the property owner nor mortgage holder can be located, notice may be given by posting a copy of the notice on the property and by publication as defined in Section 1-102 of Title 11 of the Oklahoma Statutes this title. Such notice shall be published once not less than ten (10) days prior to any hearing or action by the municipality pursuant to the provisions of this section;

- 2. A hearing shall be held by the governing body to determine if the property is an abandoned building as defined by this section;
- 3. Pursuant to a determination that the building is an abandoned building, the governing body may order the agents of the municipality to pursue abatement of the public nuisance caused by the building and shall order the municipal clerk to place the building on an abandoned building list to be maintained by the clerk. At any time after such determination and order, the agents of the municipality may cause the public nuisance to be abated as authorized in this section, and such abatement may continue until such time as the building is removed from the abandoned building list in accordance with the procedures set forth in subsection C of this section;

4. Abatement of an abandoned building by the municipality may include any or all of the following:

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- a. any lawful municipal regulatory or municipal police and fire protection action in relation to the abandoned building or the owner of such building necessary or appropriate for the protection of inhabitants in and visitors to the municipality. Upon receipt of any necessary warrant to authorize such action, the agents of the municipality are granted the right of entry onto the property for the performance of any such action as a governmental function of the municipality,
- b. the quarterly assessment against the property on which the abandoned building is located and against the owner of the abandoned building of the actual costs of any municipal regulatory action taken in relation to the abandoned building or the owner of such building as authorized above,
- c. the assessment against the property on which the abandoned building is located and against the owner of the abandoned building of the actual costs of any municipal police or fire protection action taken in relation to the abandoned building or the owner of such building as authorized above, and

d. an assessment for any other actual expenses incurred by the municipality in relation to the abandoned building, including, but not limited to, the costs of notices, mailings and publications;

- 5. After the determination that a building is an abandoned building, and before commencement of any of the abatement actions authorized by paragraphs 3 and 4 of this subsection, the municipal clerk shall file a notice of lien with the county clerk describing the property, the findings of the governing body at the hearing, and stating that the municipality claims a lien on the property for all abatement costs and that such costs shall also constitute the personal obligation of the property owner from and after the date of filing of the notice;
- 6. From and after the determination that a building is an abandoned building, and continuing until such time as the building is removed from the abandoned building list in accordance with the procedures set forth in subsection C of this section, the municipal clerk shall determine the actual quarterly abatement costs for the abatement procedures authorized by this section. After such determination, the municipal clerk shall mail a statement of the actual quarterly abatement costs for the abatement procedures authorized by this section to the property owner and demand the payment of such costs by the owner. In addition, a copy of the statement shall be mailed to any mortgage holder at the address

provided for in paragraph 1 of this subsection. At the time of mailing of the statement of costs to any property owner or mortgage holder, the municipal clerk shall obtain a receipt of mailing from the postal service, the receipt of which shall indicate the date of mailing and the name and address of the mailee; and

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7. When full payment is made to the municipal clerk for actual abatement costs incurred and billed in accordance with paragraph 6 of this subsection, the municipal clerk shall send the property owner and any mortgage holder by mail a receipt for such payment; but if payment attributable to the actual quarterly costs of such abatement is not made within six (6) months from the date of the mailing of the statement to the owner of such property, a lien in the actual amount of the abatement shall may be filed against the abandoned building with the county clerk in the manner prescribed for other lienholders by law. Until finally paid, the costs and the interest thereon shall be the personal obligation of the property owner from and after the date the notice of lien was filed with the county clerk. In addition, the costs and the interest thereon shall be a lien against the property from the date the notice of lien was filed with the county clerk. The lien shall be coequal with the lien of ad valorem taxes and all other taxes and special assessments and shall be prior and superior to all other titles and liens against the property. The lien shall continue until the cost is fully paid or until the municipality or its assignee agrees to

release the lien. A mineral interest, if severed from the surface interest and not owned by the surface owner, shall not be subject to any lien created pursuant to this section. Upon receiving full payment, the municipal clerk shall forward to the county clerk a notice of discharge of the lien.

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C. Any owner or mortgage holder of any building determined by the governing body of the municipality to be an abandoned building pursuant to this section may petition the governing body in writing at any time after such determination for removal of such building from the abandoned building list maintained by the municipal clerk. Any such petition shall be filed with the municipal clerk. thirty (30) days after such petition is filed with the municipal clerk, the governing body shall hold a hearing to determine if the building is no longer an abandoned building. Upon such a determination, the governing body shall order the building removed from the abandoned building list. The municipal clerk shall comply with such order by removing the building from the abandoned building list; provided, the real property on which the abandoned building is located and the owner of such building shall remain liable for payment of any and all abatement costs incurred by the municipality prior to the determination and order by the governing body that the building should be removed from the abandoned building list. Upon full payment of any costs certified against the property, the municipal clerk shall file a release of the notice of the lien in

- the county clerk's office within ten (10) days after receiving such payment.
- D. The governing body may designate, by ordinance, an administrative officer or administrative body of the municipality to carry out any or all of the duties of the governing body specified in this section. The property owner shall have the right of appeal to the governing body from any order of the administrative officer or administrative body. Such appeal shall be taken by filing a written notice of appeal with the municipal clerk within ten (10) days after the administrative order is delivered or mailed to the owner at the address shown in the county treasurer records.
- 12 E. For purposes of this section:

- 1. "Abandoned building" means any building located within the municipality that is not currently occupied and has been declared unsecured or dilapidated pursuant to Section 22-112 or 22-112.1 of Title 11 of the Oklahoma Statutes this title and remains in such condition; and
- 2. "Owner" means the owner of record as shown by the most current tax roles of the county treasurer.
- F. The provisions of this section shall not apply to any property zoned and used for agricultural purposes.
- G. The officers, employees or agents of the municipality shall not be liable for any damages or loss of property due to the abatement of the public nuisance caused by an abandoned building

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performed pursuant to the provisions of this section or as otherwise
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    provided by law.
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        SECTION 4. This act shall become effective November 1, 2018.
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